HISTORY OF O'BRIEN, THE SILK THIEF. THE MAN WHO ROBBED THE PUBLIC STORES AN

EXPERT THIRTY YEARS AGO. Michael O'Brien, who was arrested last week with "Andy" Roberts and George Williams for stealing silk worth \$15,000 from the United States stores at Laight and Washington sts., has been puzzling Inspector Byrnes ever since. The inspector knew that he must be a good man, or " Andy" Roberts, the bond forger, would not have "connected" with But where he came from and what he has been doing during the sixty-five years of his life remained unknown until yesterday, when "Tim" Golden, one of the oldest detectives in the city, took a long look at his face. Golden knew that he had seen O'Brien before many years ago, but under what circumstances he could not quite tell. At last it flashed through Golden's mind who the man was and where he had seen him, and the discovery carried both back to the time when this city was the headquarters of one of the most expert bands of forgers that has ever appeared in criminal life

Michael O'Brien is the prisoner's right name, and he came to this city about forty years ago from Boston. In Boston he did some work in the sneak thief line that was original in its way and gave him the confidence of all the expert crooks everywhere. He opened a chop house in Spring-st., near Broadway, and his principal customers were men who had either been in prison or were in a fair way to get there.

THE RUDILAR'S ROMANTIC MARRIAGE. O'Brien got married while he kept his place and there was a little romance about it that showed the peculiar character of the man. While walking up Broadway one stormy night in winter he heard one of the olden time "mashers" make an insulting remark to a young woman as she was crossing at Tenth-st. O'Brien dropped his umbrella and struck the "masher" a powerful blow, knocking him down. He did not stop at this, but rolled him over in the mud until he looked as though he had crawled out of a sewer. O'L ien then escorted the girl home. She was a saleswoman in Brodie's cloak store in Canal-st., near Broadway, and O'Brien frequently met her there. He fell in love with her and asked her to be his wife. She did not know anything about his history and

O'Brien did not cover anything up. He told her that he had been a thief and was a thief then, but that he would promise never to do a " crooked' thing while she lived if she would marry him. She believed him and became his wife. He was true to his word, and during the four years that she lived after the marriage no complaint could be made of his conduct. During this period, in order to get away from the thieves that infested his erous indignaties, of en in the presence of their huseating house, he sold out and opened a road house known as the Woodbine, now used as a police station at High Bridge.

Soon after O'Brien's wife died his old partners in crime flocked out to the Woodbine and it became the place in a little while where all the noted thieves went when they wanted a quiet chat about business. It was a rule in the Woodbine that no guest, no matter how much money he had with him, must be robbed there, and O'Brien's hatred we u d follow the man who would break this

hatred would follow the man who would break this rule or even try to.

Among the noted thieves who were O'Brien's partners were Spence Pettis, "the gentlemanly thiet." Walter Patterson, John Garadier, John Sinclair, James Wilkins and George T. Conklin. They were all educated men and despised a thief who would pick a pocket or rob a safe. Their work was all in the line of pen and ink sketches, and exceedingly clever work it was, too.

HIS FIRST VENTURE IN THIS CITY. The first job that O'Brien went into, after his wife died, as far as is known, was to beat the Pacific Bank in this city out of \$1,075 on a formal check. The name of Simeon Draper, who was

son. Patterson was alterward arrested, but he wore a clever disguise when at the bank and could not be identified.

A scheme was at this time originated by O'Brien to swindle a large number of banks by forged sheeks, given in payment for bonds bought at the banks. O'Brien got acquainted with George F. Conklin, who was then confidential clerk in the firm of Lathrop & Laddington, doing business at Nos. 23 and 25 Park place, and persuaded Conklin to join in the scheme. This firm had a large deposit at all times in the Mechanics' Bank. Conklin gave O'Brien the signature used by the firm at the bank. The following letter was sent to H. T. Vail, the cashler of the Mechanics' Bank. "I am request dby Mrs. W H am Wh. nev. of Morristown, N. J., to inquire relative to an investment in the new 7-30s U. S. Treasury loan notes, as she desires to buy them from your institution. Will you be kind enough to send by bearer the exact amount of \$25,000 with accrued interest. Delivered to-morrow, if ready."

This was signed by H. W. Weed, an alias for O'Brien. A boy took it there and got an answer that the bonds would be furnished for \$-7.10750, signed by the acting cashier. Hugh Mexellis met the boy and got the answer, saying that he was a friend of Mr. Weed's. Weed gave a check the next day to McNellis for \$27.10750, payable to Weed's order, and signed with the forged signature of Lathrop & Luddington. Weed sent the following with the check, written on the back of the note which the acting cashier had sent to him: "I enclose amount, as ner bill of yesterday, with interest to date, for \$25,000 in 7-30s treasury notes, which you will please deliver to bearer in sizes to suit your convenience. \$0,000 and \$300 pc ferable. The forgery was discovered but no arrests were.

GETTING AWAY WITH THE PLUNDER.

The forgery was discovered but no arrests were made. The bonds were evenly divided between Pettis, McNellis, Sinclair, Millins, Conklin and O'Brien. Each of the thieves deposited the money in separate banks with a view to getting credit. Newark Bank, of Newark, and the Ninth National, of this city, were swindled out of \$20,-National, of this city, were swindled out of \$20,000 by the purchase of bonds with forged checks. D'Brien did the work at the Ninth National Bank. All the checks were signed Lathrop & Luddington, Patterson, O'Brien, Garadier and Conklin were arrested. Conklin confessed. O'Brien proved an alibi and the jury disagreed, the others were convicted and the scheme of robbery, which would have gone as high as \$1,000,000 in thirty days, was broken up. A cambler gave bail for O'Brien for a new trial. O'Brien forfeited the bail and his doings since are not known. He was thought to do ngs since are not known. He was thought to be dead, but the silk robbery shows that at sixty-five he is as active and acute as ever.

WISCONSIN LAND-GRANT GRIEVANCES. A MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT-OP-

P. SITION TO MR. VILAS. St. Paul, Dec. 25 (Specials.-It has been announced hat the Supervisors of St. Croix County, Wisconsin, anve forwarded a memorial to Congress concerning ecent land grant decisions that will create a sensa-The document has been sent to Senato Spooner and relates to lands which have been patented to the railroad company. One of the officers of the hiengo, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad Company was asked about the matter, and he said that the matter was purely a political one, as there was no possible harm the memorialists could do to the Omaha

The railroad company, he said, was entitled to ten sections of land per mile, or about 400,000 in all, and only 320,000 acres had been patented to the road. Consequently it was impossible that the road had more land than it was entitled to. In fact, secretary Lamar had refused to patent over 70,000 acres which

Lamar had refused to patent over 70.000 acres which it was entitled to. It was a fact, also, that there was not land enough within the limits to give the railroad all it was entitled to inder the grant. The lands being already patented, it was too late to haim the compary, and this was one of the principal reasons why the gentleman at first suspected the political Ethiopian in the wood pile.

The Supervisors of St. Croly County are twenty-three in number. Seventeen of them are Democrats, one being thoroughly Vilas and the other permerates, one being thoroughly Vilas and the other as thoroughly anti-Vilas. If the latter could do anything to prevent the confirmation of Mr. Lamar has Justice of the Supreme Court it would also prevent the configmation of Mr. Vilas as Secretary of the Interior. The accomplishment of the non-confirmation of Mr. Vilas would be decidedly pleasing to the clique of the Supreme Court it would also prevent the configmation of Mr. Vilas would be decidedly pleasing to the clique of themocrats in St. Croix County opposed to him.

LOOK HAVEN, Penn., Doc. 25.-Lloyd McCloskey

noon when they broke through the ice. McCloskey was drowned but the lady clong to the ice until sho was rescued. McCloskey's body was recovered.

FRESH TROUBLE AT HAWAII. ON THE EVE OF ANOTHER REVOLUTION.

NATIVES TAKING SIDES WITH KING KALAKAUA IN FIGHT AGAINST THE LEGISLATURE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25 .- A correspondent, writing from Honolulu says: "The people here are virtually on the eve of another revolution. The King HE PROMISES TO MAKE IT WARM FOR THE OFFICER in exercising his veto power, intends to stand on AT THE TOMBS TO-DAY. rendered. The Legislature will contest his action and the natives are becoming excited. They find the narves are becoming exci ed. They find themselves ignored and treated with contempt. The King insul ed; his rights, as understood by them, ignored or denied. The native papers, it is said, are faciliting natives to rise in arms if necessary and assert their right to a voice in the management of their own affairs. It only needs a spark to set the country in a blaze.

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN SAMOA. STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE GERMANS-CHIEFS

SECEDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

teadily raising a strong opposition.

Within a fortnight after the assembling of Parliaand it is londerstood that numbers of those who at-

The arrival of the United States man-of-war Adams The arrival of the United States man-of war Adams on October 19 was the occasion of much rejoicing to many in Apia. Men were not permitted to leave the ship, because of the presence of the German guards and sentries along the beach, and the possibility of a conflict taking place. Soon after the Adams's acrival, a number of natives nuder Asl, the fighting third, visited the vessel and after inspection the Samoans assembled on the upper deck and held a dance. The correspondent states that the Germans have expressed their amovance at this circumstance, and the natives have been virtually prohibited from giving any more such entertainm uts.

A collision is reported to have taken place between American sailors and a German officer in the street. The officer jostled a sailor who knocked him down.

OUTRAGES COMMITTED BY BANDITS. WHAT GENERAL MOTAZ FOUND AT OTAFZ-CLOSE

and that half had not been told regarding outrages committed by Bernal's band. The women, both old and young, had been compelled to submit to numerous indignities, of en in the presence of their lusbands and brothers. All of the abde-bodied inhabitiants have folial the federal troops in an effort to externamate the band.

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All Locomotives under the influence of their basels.

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All Locomotives under the influence of their basels.

All Locomotives under the influence of their basels.

exterminate the band.

Af a leaving Otaez, the band went into the spur of the serra Madre Mountains, covering the intracks well and remained there a few days; then went to Laratra, a mining camp in the foot hills of Serra Madre; rode into the place with the intention of distroying the town, but met with a warm reception from the troops and were compelled to reit at after exchanging a number of shots. The band was bursted by the cluzens and soldiers, but easily made their escape owing to the superiority of their houses.

Miss Barraza, a young lady captived in Otaez, is evidently with the band, as a small shoe time has been seen in the sand near where the fight took place, it is stated that the Mexican Government fear intentational trouble with the United States of account of the moreous of the superiority of their houses.

General Tojero has been instructed to put more men in the field, as it is thought that Bernal will attempt to cross into the State of Durango.

EMBEZZLER M'NEALLY RELEASED.

EMBEZZLER M'NEALLY RELEASED. HALIFAX, Dec. 25.—Frank C. McNeally, the Saco-bank embezzler, was released from custody to-night. bank embezzler, was released from custody to-night.

His brother Harry appeared in City Marshal Cutter's terrible gash in his throat. Mitchell fell on one knee, then a Commissioner of Charities and then a Commissioner of Charities and the second of the check, and it was so cleverly was signed to the check, and it was so cleverly was signed to the check, and it was so cleverly was signed to the chark. The check was made it and a genuine signature. The check was made payable to flerry Carr, an "alias" that O'Brien assumed, and it was cashed at the bank by Patterson. Patterson was afterward arrested, but he some a clever disguise when at the bank and could wore a clever disguise when at the bank and could wore a clever disguise when at the bank and could wore a clever disguise when at the bank and could be identified.

The letter was read and frequent the strength of the bank of Detective Power, who claimed that it had been provided that the solution of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry, who claimed that it had been testation of Harry and the had the h office this afternoon and produced a letter signed by
M. H. Kelly, treasurer of the Saco and Biddeford Savtents into Whitesides's body. Whitesides died fifteen Harry A McNeally, a man in whom they had the a drug store, where he fell from loss of blood. He died

SYNDICATE TO KEEP I I THE PRICE OF COPPER PARIS, Dec. 25.—The Course was quiet during the week; prices firm. There was wide fluctuation in copper mining shares, most of which closed flat yester day. Still, Rio Tinto shares rose forty-one francs

THE AURANIA DETAINED FOR EIGHTEEN HOURS. LONDON, Dec. 25.—The Cunard Line steamer Aurania, Captain Hains, from New-York December 17 crived at Queenstown at 4:47 p. m. today on her way to Liverpool. The Aurania was detained to

CAUSE OF THE RUSSIAN UNIVERSITY RIOTS. ST. PETERSBUEG, Dec. 25.—The latest university rioters was caused by stud-misinviting citizens to make

RUMOR THAT WOOD MAY NOT RIDE NEXT YEAR. LONDON, Dec. 25.-In connection with the charges brought by Lord Durham, a rumor has been circulated that Wood, Sir George hetwynd's jockey, would not apply for a liceuse for 1888. The report is demed by Wood himself.

REDUCTION OF 22 PER CENT IN LAND RENTS. DUBLIN, Dec. 25.-The Mitchelstown Land Court has ade a reduction of twenty two per cent in rents on the Countess of Kingston's estate. A year ago the tenants on that estate demanded a twenty per centreduction. This was refused, and since that time the tenants have carried on the Pian of Campaign.

THE RUMOP CAUSED RY A SECRET DOOR.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 25.—The recent rumor that an attempt had been made to assasinate the Czar was due to the discovery of a secret door beneath the imperial box in the theatre.

THEY MUST PAY DUTY ON CHUNG LEE. MONIEAL, Dec. 25 (Special). - Mr. and Mrs. McKes Rankin's theatrical company, which opens at the Academy of Music here to morrow in "The Golden Giant," has a Chinaman called Chung Lee who impersonates a character. The management deemed it necessary only to inform the Custom Department and necessary only to inform the Custom Department and put up a bond for \$50 and everything would be all right. However, they received wors from Ottawa to-day that they would have to pay the \$50 duty required by law, although they would be in Canada for only three weeks. Advance Agent Melville said to-day that he thought it was pretty hard lines, but he supposed they would submit.

MR. CL. VELAND'S PRESENT TO THE POPE. BALTIMORE, Dec. 25.—The correspondent of The Bottlmore Sun who was sent to report the Papal Inblice peremonies arrived in Rome vesterday. He had in his charge a gift from President Cleveland to the Pope. The present is a copy of the United -tates Constitution, beauifully engressed and richly bound in book form. It was forwarded to Rome through Cardinal Globoss. The beek is gilt-edged, contains fifteen pages, each page eighteen inches square, and is bound with velium of a cream calor. The words "The Constitution of the United States of America are on the centre in gilt letters. The book restain a handsome ease of Triam purple. The few persons who have seen the present speak very highly of its merit as a specimen of what Americans can de in that live, but the createst praise it has created has been given the President for the simplicity of magift. is gilt-edged, contains fifteen pages, each page eighteen

VALUE OF LAND EQUIGHT BY EPHRAIM BLAINE.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 25 (Special).—Some recent transactions in Pittsburg real estate have brought an interesting fact to light. In 1801 the block on the west side of Sixth-st. bounded by Duquesne Way and Pennava, and running back to Ceell alley was bought by Ephraim Blaine, father of James G. Blaine, for \$600. The property is 420 feet long on Sixth-st, by 240 feet wide. The day the same property, according to real estate agents, is worth \$1,500 per foot front in Sixth-st. The narrow atrip from Pennave, to Duquesne Way would bring \$630,000.

WITNESSING HER HUSBAND'S VIOLENT DEATH.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 25.—James Salemen quarrelled with his wife to alght and left the house in auger. His wife the thief and the police will try to find him. VALUE OF LAND BOUGHT BY EPHRAIM BLAINE.

little son ran after, calling to his father to return. Just Salomen paused, looked back, and while standing there was kneeked down by a train. His head was severed from the body. The wife picked up the head, kissed it wildly, imploring fergiveness for quarreiling.

WAS IT A POLICE OUTRAGE?

MR. WAGNER ARRESTED ON THE BRIDGE.

What looks on the surface like a police outrage occurred at the New-York end of the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday evening. Louis A. Wagner, of the law firm of | road: Kauffman & Wagner, No. 5 Beekman st., was on his way coming around the curve from the switch. About the rest of the story Mr. Wagner said yesterday:

"I stood there only a moment when a Bridge police-man came up and in an offensive manner ordered me to SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—The steamer Mariposa, move on. I told nim that I was only waiting for the Richmond to-day. The strikers hung around the which arrived yesterday, brought advices from Samoa train to come up. He continued to say, Get along coal piers and discussed the General Manager's which arrived yesterday, brought advices from Samuel to November 14. The Apia correspondent of "The Sydney Morning Heraid" states that the Samoans are policeman whose name I afterward learned was Charles Duly, a burly fellow about twice my size, came Star steamship Netherland yesterday would be considered the policeman whose name I afterward learned was Charles Duly, a burly fellow about twice my size, came Star steamship Netherland yesterday would be considered to the fact that the party represented by the new King, Tamasese has been made use of merely to serve the policy of the Germans. The whole plan of foreign interference, as represented by the German pixa of operations, is cfreamstances that I could see no reason for his insulting | retire if they attempted to work. Within a fortnight after the assembling of Parliament, there were increased rumors of dissatisfaction of the Chiefs. The meeting of the legislature did not include all the most influential men of the islands, violence down the stairs. In protesting I may have used some rather strong language, as would be natural, but I trauble is articipated in the event of new men taking the strikers' places some rather strong language, as would be natural, but I made no resistance. At the foot of the stairs another policeman called out. Eum him in, 'and between them I was hustled down to the street and pushed and pulled.

In a disturbance in which a number of strikers and idlers were engaged near the coal piers this

hearing my statement the sergeant behind the desk said | mitted, that he would be obliged to hold me for examination, and I was then subjected to the further humilation of a search. As I was accus define time not even of intoxication but of a simple mislemeanor only, this action was an unjustifiable outrace. The sergeant did been run on the sidings and an attempt will be made to morrow to relead the content will be made to morrow to relead the content will be have done so but for my protestations, but after some under a strong police guard. The men show condelay permitted me in company with an officer in citi-zen's dress to go to Emit Kosmak's, No. 65 Park Row. to any men who interfere with their plans. where I succeeded in obtaining bait to appear before the court on Mouday morning. I have not yet decided what action I shall take. It is not an enviable position for a section I shall take. It is not an enviable position for a section I shall take. PURSUIT OF BERNAL'S BAND

NOGALES, Arg., Dec. 25—General Moraz, with a party of troops, went to Otacz saon after receiving the news of the sacking of the town by bernal. He found the houses barricaled and the streets descried found the houses barricaled and the streets descried. They found the houses barricaded and the streets deserted citizens have some rights that they must respect. They or no coul at the mines for shipment. The general

Juneses, Miss., Dec. 25.—George Mitchell and some other young men were in the street last night cerebrating Christmas when they encountered "Aleck" Whitesales. A dispute arose in which strong language was used. Whitesides, who was armed with a long knife, which he had obtained from a butcher shop near by. minutes afterward. Mitchell walked a short distance to

inse an eye.
ettles, tormerly agent of Parson station, was
and killed by a freight transcript. by a freight train a short distance les, who is said to have been drink

Rowdyism prevailed last night to a greater extent than ever before. Several large show windows were demodished with bricks. The tragelies above mentioned, occurring in so small a commantly, greatly marred the enjoyment of Christmas.

The snow of yesterday remains, and the indications are that more will fall.

AFFRAYS ON CHRISTMAS IN CHICAGO. CHICAGO, Dec. 25. - Christmas in Chicago was marred by an unusual number of affrays, fatal and otherwise. evening four persons have been reported stabled, one abot dead, and a policeman and an Aiderman nearly pummeted out of existence. Nellie Taylor plunged a dirk four times into the breast and back of Annie Crawford, inflicting mortal wounds. Robert Drew tabbed two other workingmen, Paul Krautwald and haries Kaerthae, in a drunk n quarrel over the prospects of a general war in Europe. The shooting ferred to was the killing of the bookkeeper, the other woman in the case being Mrs. Harry Mackin, the sister in law of the wronged wife. Mrs. McAuley is a relative of the ballot box stuffer, Joseph C. Mackin. Officer James Moore attempted to make peace this morning among some intoxicated Germans, and wa et upon by seven of them and beaten into insensi-

set upon by seven of them and beaten into meensi-bility.

Aiderman J. J. McCormick, while drunk last night, viciously attacked John M. Dumphy, jr., son of the ex-county Treasurer. Young Dumphy's overcoat was slit in all directions, but he e-caped injury, while one of his friends. William Briner, was cut under the ear. A spice dish was smashed on the Alderman's head, Briner will recover and the Alderman is not badly hurt. In all the affrays mentioned the assailants were promptly arrested, except in the case of the Alderman, who instead was escorted home in a cab by a friendly policeman, who arrived just as the city father, whiskey bottle in hand, was making another dash in the direction of the son of the ex-County Treasurer.

HOLIDAY CRIMES IN CHARLESTON. CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 25 (Spec-al), .- This was rather a bloody Christmas in Charleston. Although the secular celebration will not take place till to-morrow, there have been three fatal affrare stready and the pelice stations ar- erowded with prisesers. The streets have been filled

A PENNSYLV INIA DRUMMER ROBBED. HE WAKES UP IN A LODGING-HOUSE AND FINDS

CLOTHES AND MONEY GONE. A young man who gave his name as James Grant and said he was a "drumm r" for a notion house in Scranton, Penn., reported at Police Headquarters last night that he had been robbed of money and valuables early yesterday morning in a house in Hudson st. He stated that he came from Scranton on Saturday, ar riving in Jersey City about 8 o'clock in the evening. He registered at Taylor's Hotel. In the hotel office a well-dressed man spoke to him about matters in Scranton. He said he had met Grant before in Scranton and Grant believed him, though he could not recollect ever having seen the stranger. They spent the evening together and later the man suggested a trip to this city. Grant consented and they crossed

the Desbrosses Street Ferry.

The stranger took Grant into a beer shop near the ferry where they indulged in some stimulants. Grant

NO PARLEY WITH STRIKERS. READING EMPLOYES ORDERED TO REPORT

FOR DUTY TO-MORROW MORNING. INTENSE EXCITEMENT AT PORT RICHMOND OVER THE RUMOR THAT BELGIAN IMMIGRANTS

ARE TO TAKE THE STRIKERS' PLACES -SERIOUS TROUBLE THREAT-ENED-MANY ARRESTS

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25 .- The following notice as issued last night, signed by General Manager McLeod, of the Philadelphia and Reading Rail-

"Work will be resumed on Tuesday morning, to his home. No. 822 Gates ave., Brooklyn, about 6 p. m. December 27, at the Port Richmond yard. Employes He had bought and deposited his ticket and having will report for duty at that time. The places of mounted the stairs found that he was just too late for such as do not report will be filled by other men. the train. He therefore stood near where the last car the men discharged for disobedience of orders in refusing to move the trains to the place of their destination will not be permitted to enter again the service of the company in any capacity."

There was no change in the situation at Port

evening Mark McGoulrick was stabled three times "Here the policeman preferred a charge against me of disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace. After will prove fatal. Bradland was arrested and com-

not actually consign me to a cell, aithough he would made to-morrow to unload the perishable goods

appear to think that they are privileged to insult and opinion is that the strike now on in the Lehigh re-

PROMPT MEASURES TAKEN BY THE COMPANY TO PROTECT ITS PROPERTY-DANGER OF A COAL

FAMINE-STRIKERS ORDERLY BUT DETERMINED. Buandasa, Dec. 25 (Special),- Tarly this morning and to-day the Reading Company, in pursnance of instructions from General Manager McLeod, has been running all its locomotives into the various roundhouses. This was done to prevent any possible damage to the machinery by striking train hands. With the exception of a few shifting crews at the principal stations everything is practically at a standstill. The engines which started out on Friday night with coal and destination, have been brought to Reading and placed under guard. The officials say they don't want a repetition of the Missouri Pacific strike and have decided to place their motive power beyond the reach of all possible danger.

The Reading Company employs about 2,500 men in this city-1.800 in their machine and car shops and the remainder as train hands, switch tenders and in other braids of the tras, ortation de-Two negro employes of the Compress Company fought | partment. The shop hands switchmen and crosslast night with knives. One of the men was so badly ing watchmen are not likely to be called upon to ness GORMAN SAYS HE MUST BE CLERK OF THE strike as the leaders say they can block the traffic great rallway centre, being the terminus of the East Pennsylvania, Lebanon Valley, Schuylkill and Lehigh and Reading and Columbus branches, impartment than Mr. Corman arrainged for him to be employing about 400 train men. The main line, made Clerk of the state House of Delegates. The Marywhich also passes through Rending, employs fifty and textistature meets in biennial session on January 3 freight crews of 250 men and in the coal trade. While not always beling a position in either freight crews of 250 men and in the coal trade seventy-five crews of 350. In addition to these 150 shifting crews of 750 men are also employed at the various stations including Port Richmond. The Schuylkill and Susquehanna, Trement, Little Schuylkill Mountain Link, Mine Hill, Mahanoy and Shamokin, Sunbury and Catawissa branches em loy about the same number of men and during the busy season many more.

As year as can be estimated the actual number of train hands likely to stand out will not exceed statistics obtained from trustworthy sources. Conservative men believe that only about 80 per cent of this little army will respond to the call of the Kn ghts, and it will require several days to ascertain just how many "black sheep" will be found

great deal of unessiness among business men; and should the trouble continue any length of time a coal famine is apprehended. There are thirtyeight furnaces along the main line and branches. They consume large quantities of anthracite coal, and, it is said, their stock will not last more than ten days. Some of these furnaces use large quantities of coke in connection with anthracite coal, and those controlled by Robert H. Coleman at Labanon use coke conclusively. The iron mills and other industries, as well as local dealers, are Most of the iron manualso short of coal. facturers seldom lay in large supplies of fuel, and the sudden and unexpected strike threatens to

cause no end of trouble. The miners are not likely to strike. They have been forced out by the railroad men; but are in full sympathy with them. The Reading Company controls some sixty collieries which employ between 12,000 and 15,000 men and boys. The individual collieries in Reading territory employ 8,000 men and boys. A fair estimate places the number of persons thrown out of employment at not more than 26,500. The men in this section and throughout the coal regions are orderly but

apparently determined.

The prompt stand taken by the company and its removal of all motive power to places of safety has fairly staggered the leaders. Some regard the move as a bluff, but Mr. McLeod is angry and means fight. On Tuesday the company will endeavor to move all traffic offered with non-union men, or with such assistance as those who refuse to go out may be able to render. The outlook is really serious.

The Railroaders' Assemble of this site held.

The Railroaders' Assembly of this city held a lengthy meeting to-day and discussed the situa-tion of affairs, and while no vote was taken, it was tocitly resolved to stand by the Knights. This means that the orders of the latter to strike are to be obeyed, and that the milroaders who are not Knights will act with the latter.

WILLING TO ARBITRATE.

PRILADELPHIA, Dec. 25-The exact complement of the Philadelphia Knights on strike is 4,700, Bernard Sharkey, who was present at the conference and who presided over the district convention on Saturday, said to-day: "We wish to place ourselves right before the public by letting it be known that the striking employes of the Reading Railroad Company are willing to arbitrate their differences with the company, and that we are ready to resume work at any time, pending arbitration. Our executive committee is ready to meet the representatives of the company when they notify us of their willinguess to treat with us.

NO CHANGE AT ELIZABETHPORT. There was nothing new in the strike yesterday at Stignbethport. The men are determined and will hold

out to the last gasp. The railroad is seriously inconvenienced by the tring up of the freight, which ob-structs the tracks for a great distance. In consequence, consignees and consignors are at loggerheads and much perishable goods will be lost.

CIGARMAKERS LIKELY TO STRIKE. WORKMEN OPPOSE THE TENEMENT-HOUSE SYSTEM -PROMISES OF SUPPORT.

During the week remaining before the close of the year all the laber organizations in the city that are friendly to the union eigarmakers will take active steps toward preventing, if possible, a return by the manu facturers to the tenement-house system of cigar-making. The cigarmakers here are theroughly organized, and they will oppose the movement of the manufacturers to the fullest extent. They have the support of many thousand workmen, and the beyout against all cigars with-out the blue label on the box will be pushed more vigor ously than heretofere. Some of the dishenest manufacturers will endeaver to overcome this, as they have the spurious brand on the non-union tenement-he cirars. This has been declared illegal by prominent judges in several States, and each manufacturer found using the counterfeit will be prosecuted. In another way the cigarmakers will try to prevent the making of cigars in the homes of the workers. The Board of Health of the city will be appealed to, and, although the law declaring that the manufacture of cigars in tenement houses has been declared uncenstitutional, an attempt will be made to get another bill before the Governor that will at least act as a strong check against that business. It is not likely that there will be a simultaneous strike of cigarmakers. As fast as each manufacturer or dealer begins to handle the boycotted goods the men in his employ will be called out and a boycott placed upon his cigars. In this way the 10,000 cigarmakers is the city are likely to be out on strike before the end of the month. using the counterfest will be prosecuted. In another

month.

The Central Laber Union at 1/s meeting yesterday indersed the action of the eigarmaners in the stand that they have taken, and its support was promised.

SPINNERS AGREE TO STAY OUT. Fall River, Dec. 25 (Special).—The spinners at the Stafford Mills who struck yesterday held a meeting this afternoon at which Senator Robert Howard, secre tary of the Spinner's Union, presided. The grievances which led to the strike were fully discussed. Secretary Howard advised moderation and caution. The tary Howard advised moderation and cannon. In strikers were agreed that their grievances had assumed such a shape that there was no alternative left them but to strike and they manimously voted to stay out and to ask the indersement of the Spinners' Ex-ecutive Committee. Their principal grievance is in the sixing of the yarn by which the contend they are cheated out of from seventy-five cents to a dollar a week.

DREWERS SETTLE THEIR TROUBLES.

There will be no strike in the Empire State Reewery as was contemplated last week, for the managers have satisfactorily settled their troubles with the men. The trouble was over the discharge of two men, which was brought about through the influence of the Ale

LONELY LIFE ON A PACIFIC REEF. SHIPWRECKED SAILORS SUBSISTING ON BIRDS AND

FISH FOR NEARLY A YEAR. SAN FRANCISCO. Dec. 25 (special).-A story of life on a desert island in the South Sea, as romantic a fishing schooner who recently arrived at Honolulu, after more than fifteen months absence. In Septem-ter last year the schooner General Sigel left Honolulu on a shark, hunting expedition with a crew of eight including the captain and mate. They cruised among the islands of the South Pacific, securing a good cargo of shark fins, which bring a high price for shipment to China. In the latter part of September they stopped at Midway Island. While they were camped on the island a great storm arose and their vessel was driven ashore and wrecked. Their only means of subsistence were sea birds and eggs and fish. There was plenty of fresh water. They found a Japanes seew on the island, and they saved a boat from the sizel. Nine months were spent on the island. One man died from having his hands blown off by goant powder with which he was fishing. The captal and a seaman were innetered by the mate who had conserved a hatred for them. The three men went to a neighboring island to host eggs, and the mate returned abone. When taxed with morder of his shipmates, he denied it and said they had quarrelied and killed each other. The four survivors, however, were convinced to his guilt and they determined to leave him on the Island. They destroyed the boat and set sail for Marshall Island in the scow. After a voyage of two and a half months, they reached Marshall Island. Two were taken to Manila and the others to Honoluliu.

HIGGINS AGAIN PROVIDED FOR.

member of the Maryland Democratic "Ring" was not to be left out to the cold, and no seener had be left the Treasury so severely strained as to cause an actual severhouse of the General Assembly, Mr. Higgins at former sessions of that body has been a useful man to the political managers at Annapolis. He has for years been the leading member of the so-called third House.

As a lobbyest Mr. Higgins is as expert as he is as a pelitical boss. The ring has put up t'eter J. Campbell for Speaker of the flouse and Hirrins for Clerk. This cutand-dried state has raised a stir minng the delegates. and led to the formation of a minority party consisting of some of the ablest Representatives in the next General Assambly. A consultation of the minerity members was held recently and it was determined to appose the ticket put apby the managers and to astagenize Camp-bell and Higgins. The city members stated that they would not vote for Campbell and Higgins, and gave it Campbell upon the House after they had convinced themselves he would meet with opposition from some of necity Representatives. All the members piedged themselves to the support of the Tildes law, with the annual city representation, glass-bex and minority registra ion features, and the prov the voter cast his ballot inside the poli-room and net in

The principal objection raised to the managers' tienet is, of course, against Higgins, and there is some talk that the besses will sacrifice Campbell, a leading worker in the party, rather than have Higgins defeated, as Mr. Gorman has said that Higgins must have the place and it is unnecessary to add Higgins must have the place and it is unnecessary to and Higgins will get it. Some of the independent Democrats executed to the Legislature say that the opposition on the Democrate side of the House will number from twenty-four to twenty-eight members. Twenty figuralizes will have seats in the House. Ferty-six are a majeritr. If the estimate as to the independent Democratic strength is correct, it will be in the power of the highependents to defeat the bess's schemes and measures. It will be different in the cancess. They the managers will have full centrol, unless a strenger independent feeling manifests itself among Democratic memoers than is now apparent.

INSTANTLY KILLED BY A TRAIN.

A MOTHER AND HER TWO CHILDREN LOSING THEIR LIV S ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
FOUGHREEFSIE, Dec. 25.—Mrs. Annie O'Neil, a widew

nd ner little family of three children, two boys and a girl, lived just south of the hamlet of Rhineeliff. She lest her husband about ten years are. She was janitress in one of the Rhinecliff schools and also went out at day's work. Her children all went to school regularly. Yesterday she worked all day at the State Deck Hetel. Her children went up to the he el to go home in the evening with their mother. After her work was done, her empleyer gave her two new dre-ses for Christmas and the little children some games and toys, and the little family started for nome games.

They walked atong the Hudson River Railroad track.

When within two hundred yards of Rhinebeck Station she evidently heard a freight train which was approach ing from the north and stopped off the down track on to the up track at 8:28 p. m., just us the fast New-York express, which left New York at 6p. m., came along. Michael Burns, the engineer of the train, saw the movement and blew the engine's whistle sharply, pulled the reverse lever over and spened the throttle wide, but ne power on earth could save the mother and children. She evidently saw there was no excape, because she had her arms round both of the little ones hugging them to her closely and thus the engine going at least forty miles an hear and thus the engine going at least forty miles an hour hit all three. All three were instantly killed. Fac-bedy of the boy was so firmly wedged between the bars of the pilet that it was sound necessary to pry it out. Inc-only one of the family lott is a ber, age fifteen, and he was at the station when the boiles were picked in p. His grief was uncontrollable and the hearts of the sorrowing people went out to him.

A CATTLE DEALER KILLED IN NO MAN'S LAND. Wichita, Kau., Dec. 25.—A ranchemas from Ne Man's Land reports the shooting of James Owens and his sen owens and his son went to a store to do some trading, and while there got into an altercation with some drunken cowboys. Owens was killed, and his son so hadly but that no hopes were entertained of his receivery. Owens came from illinois, where he was an extensive cattle and grain buyer.

PRICE THREE CENTS

THE BIG RAFT BROKEN UP. ITS PIECES STREWN OVER THE SEA. FOUND BY THE ENTERPRISE SOUTHEAST OF NANTUCKET SHOALS.

THE WAR SHIP AMONG THE LOGS FOR A DAY AND PART OF A NIGHT-THEY WERE FLOATING RAPIDLY APART WITH THE TIDE-NO DANGER TO NAVIGA-

TION NOW.

A dispatch from New-London was received in this city yesterday conveying the intelligence that the United States steamer Enterprise, Commander McCalla, had arrived at that port after a successful search for the big raft, which was lost last Sunday morning southwest of the Nantucket South Shore lightship.

The telegram continues: "When the Enterprise was 135 miles southeast by south from the sheals, she fell in with an immense number of logs, indicating that the raft had broken up. The steamer was among the logs all day and part of the night of Friday. None of the logs were lashed together, but floated singly, and spread as they travelled with the tide. They were not in the path of ocean steamers, and Commander McCalla does not believe there is any danger from that source."

A reporter of THE TRIBUNE called at the home of James D. Leary, No. 43 East Twenty-fifth-st., last night and was infermed by his son that the owner of the lost raft had retired for the night. The son declined to awaken his father, and said that he did not wish to discuss the matter. He stated that no information as to the finding of the fragments of the raft had been received by his

THE BUILDING OF THE MONSTER.

This announcement will undoubtedly revive the interest which has been manifested by the publie, and especially by those interested in shipping matters, in the picturesque circumstances which have surrounded the story of the monster collection of logs since the Miranda abandoned it. The raft was built on the coast of Nova Scotia, near Port Joggis, in one of the arms of the Bay of Fundy,

and was successfully launched on November 15. The idea of conveying huge masses of timber over long ocean distances in the shape of a raft is due in this case to Hugh R. Robertson, of Nova Scotia, who has secured a patent on the ship-raft, as it may loosely be termed. James D. Leary, a prominent ship-builder of this city, determined to utilize the scheme as a means of economical transportation between the forests of Nova Scotia and his shippards in Williamsburg. BIGGER AND HEAVIER THAN THE GREAT EASTERN.

For two years the big raft was being slowly perfected until it blossomed into a craft larger. wider and almost three times as heavy as the Great Eastern. It was 560 feet long, 65 feet wide, 38 feet high and drew 20 feet of water, while 27,000 logs, measuring from eight to almost 100 feet in length, of almost all sorts of ship timber, made up the huge mass, which was disposed in sixty The distinctive feature of the craft, however, was the mode of construction. Through the middle nection for a series of smaller chains and withes, binding the numerous logs in one compact mass. One end of this line was utilized for towing purposes, while a system of chains, encircling and compressing the whole, was designed to furnish sufficient pressure to restrain and tighten the bulk.

Mr. Robertson claims for this system the peculiar fea are of an actual tightening and compress on in the whole mass by the strain which the tig-work distributes through each stick by action on the central chem.

ALL WEST WELL FOR A TIME.

The actual venture of this modern leviathan was made on December S, in company with the steamer Miranda, of the Red Cross Line, a vessel of 1,500 tons burden. Everything went merry as a marriage bell for the first few days, and it seemed im-

Within ten short days, however, the "jig was up," and the Miranda and its playmate were not on speaking terms even. Four or five gales struck the vessel and its mare in rapid succession, and on the 1746 "a perfect harricane," as the log calls it, came; "a terriffic sea" set in; the strain became so intense that the relations of tower and towed were reversed.

THE GREAT STEEL HAWSER SNAPS.

At last the big fifteen-inch steel hawser snapped, and shortly after its companion of ten-inch thickness sneaked quietly away, and the raft drifted astern. On arriving in port at Whitestone, L. I., last Tuesday

at Whitestone, L. I., last Tuesday to the Miranda sent the announcement of the event to this city and the loss and its consequence became "the 'a k of the town."

It was immediate y pointed out by those wholevers in a position to know that the possibilities for danger and destruction embodied in the raft to the passenger and freight vessels of the occar imade it imperative and necessary that measures should be taken to find the raft and to warn incoming vessels of the obstruction on the night seas.

N. NINGO OUT. A MANOUNE WAR.

SINDING OUT A MAN-OF-WAR. The Maritime Exchange, through its superintendent, Francis W. Houghton, directed the attention of Secretary Whitney, of the Navy, and Secretary Fairchild, of the Treasury, to the marter, and on Wednesday night the man-of-war Enterprise left the Brooklyn Navy Vard under instruc-tions from the Seere arv of the Navy. On Friday the revenue enter Grant, Captain Davis, under orders from Secretary Faircaild, started out with a roving commission. The owner of the raft, mean-while, was not idle, and on Thursday he dispriched the steamer Morse to the place where the raft was last seen, as shown by the log— latitude 40° 16' north, and longitude 70° 6' west. The early start of the enterprise, however, gave it a decided advantage, and the early ship has caught the raft—or its reannants. caugat the raft-or its remnants.

WERE THE OIL AND PROVISIONS LOW ? The discussion of the loss of the raft has received an additional touch of interest through the statements of James D. Leary that the Miranda abandoned the vesse! because its supplies of lubricating oil and provisions were aimost exhausted. The owner declared fur-ther that he would hold the contractors, Bowring & Archibaid, responsible, because they had vio-lated their contract massinch as the Miranda reached the raft several days after the contract

time.
The contractors enter an unqualified denial to these charges, and have expressed their confidence that no legal troubles will arise from this take of a tub. What effect the leiegraphic anacouncement of the disintegration of the ratt will have upon these statements pro and con remains to be seen.

LOGS FOUND BY THE SCHOONER MISTLETOR. BOSTON, Dec. 25 (Special). The British schooner Mis-tietoe, Captain Matthews, which arrived here on Saturday evening, countrus the report that the raft was broken up by the stor o. Said one of the crew : "We left the Rio Grande with a cargo of hides and were sixty days out when we ran into the worst sterm we had ever met. We were then about sixty miles south of Cape cod. The weather was thick, and at one time we nearly ras on Wantner was tines, and at one time we hearly ran Nantucket shoats. That night during the first watch we saw several large logs, fully fifty feet in length, floating in the water. We can into one. We saw the bark was growing green upon it and severy indication showed that it had not long been in water. I saw a dozen ethers on the following day and other members of the crew neited more. We did not see any raft, however. I think there is no doubt but the logs we saw came from the raft."

VAIL GOING TO BE BOSS AGAIN. CHICAGO, Dec. 25 (Special) .- A local paper has the following: "The National Tretting Association deca not appear to be in a happy condition. In addition to the aunouncement that it will lese two of its mest valued officers-President Grant and First Vice-President Tilton -at the next meeting, it is also reported that T. J. Vall